

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USSN 10/032,577
Attorney Docket Q67903
March 10, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 11 and 12 are all the claims pending in the application.

In the last Office Action the Abstract of the Disclosure was objected to as being in improper form. A new abstract has been provided for the Abstract as originally filed.

The specification has been amended to correct a number of minor spelling errors. A Figure description for Figure 10 has also been provided.

In the last Office Action Claims 1-6, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-6, 8 and 9 were further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Zechin.

Claims 1-10 inclusive have been canceled without prejudice in order to advance the prosecution of the present application and new Claims 11 and 12 have been substituted therefore. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The present invention is directed to a motor vehicle having a passenger compartment and a front compartment arranged in front of the passenger compartment. An engine and gear box are mounted in the front compartment and a heat exchanger unit is mounted behind the engine in the area separating the passenger compartment from the front compartment. A manifold extends laterally of the engine above the gear box for conveying a flow of air from an inlet adjacent a front portion of the front compartment and an outlet adjacent the heat exchanger unit.

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New independent Claim 11 specifically sets forth the foregoing arrangement which is not disclosed or suggested by the patent to Zechin. The patent to Zechin provides the engine cooling radiator in front of the engine and the fan which is mounted on the front of the engine. The hot water core 56 heats circulated air to warm the passenger compartment and cannot by any stretch of the imagination be considered an engine cooling radiator. Zechin also fails to disclose and engine and gear box combination in the engine compartment. The duct 20 of Zechin extends over the engine whereas Claim 11 specifically calls for the manifold extending laterally of the engine above the gear box for conveying a flow of air from the front of the motor vehicle to the rear of the front compartment adjacent the heat exchanger unit. Therefore, Claim 11 is not anticipated by or obvious in view of the teachings of Zechin.

New Independent Claim 12 is specific to the construction of the manifold and specifically defines the manifold as being comprised of a bottom wall a pair of side walls and an upper closing wall secured to the engine compartment bonnet whereby upon opening of the bonnet the interior of the manifold will be open for servicing. The patent to Zechin fails to disclose or suggest such a manifold and accordingly Claim 12 is not anticipated by or obvious in view of the teachings of Zechin. In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments it is respectfully submitted that Claims 11 and 12 are not anticipated by or obvious in view of the teachings of Zechin. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that these claims be allowed and the application passed to issue forthwith.

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If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application on the next Office Action and feels that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the purpose of arranging such an interview.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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